

# Freedom

November 21, 2004

## Watch

***Salerno Field Hospital supports Afghan infrastructure  
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***Teams receive certificates for security efforts  
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Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

## Load up!

Air Force Staff Sgt. George Jordan (left) and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Nelson Adorno, 455th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Air Terminal Operations Center load team chiefs, review a load plan to ensure the cargo and the plan match up properly. Proper planning is key for all aircraft to get off the ground. If the weight or space is off, the plane could be grounded or there may not be room for passengers.

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Personnel at the Forward Operating Base Salerno Field Hospital are working to improve the infrastructure of Afghanistan through training and interaction with local doctors. Here, medics from the hospital unload a patient from a medical evacuation helicopter, which often transport both Coalition members and local nationals for treatment.

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(Correction) An Afghan National Army officer salutes after receiving his diploma at the Oct. 20 ANA Command and General Staff College graduation.



# Freedom Watch

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# Security teams get recognition for efforts

Story and photos by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KHWOST CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS CENTER, Afghanistan — For more than three years, Coalition forces have worked to ensure security in Afghanistan and bring democracy to the nation.

During an awards ceremony following the Afghan presidential election last month, Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson, Combined Joint Task Force-76 commander, recognized the efforts of the local security forces in Khwost province.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to members of Afghan security forces and two U.S. service members, one assigned to the Khwost Civil Military Operations Center and the other assigned to 3rd Bn., 6th Marine Regiment, for their hard work during the election process.

"I want to congratulate you on a successful election and welcome you to democracy," said Olson. "This generation of Afghans will go down in history as the ones who put your country on the road to prosperity."

Over the past year, Khwost has changed a great deal. The government is leading the way in new construction, education opportunities and security for its citizens unlike any other time in history.

"The success in this province was possible through the leadership in the governor's office and the leadership of the security forces," said Col. Gary H. Cheek, Combined Task Force Thunder commander.

The eyes of the world were watching the election in Afghanistan to see if it would be a success or a failure, said Olson.

In the face of adversity, the Afghan people did not fail, but rose above all expectations, he said.

"The elections were more successful than many people thought they would have been," said Marine Cpl. Al Riley, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, section leader. "Lots of people are very happy with the outcome of the elections."

Without the help of the local security forces, the election process never would have gone as smoothly as it did, said Marine Lance Cpl. Paul Cihos, Company W, 3rd Bn., 6th Marines, combat engineer.

"The local forces did a good job of keeping the peace," he said. But the Coalition also played an important role.

Working with the local forces to ensure



**Maj. Gen. Eric T. Olson (right), CJTF-76 commander, sits down to enjoy a traditional Afghan lunch with Mera Juddin Pathan (left), Khwost provincial governor, following an awards ceremony Oct. 14 that recognized the hard work of the Afghan security forces during the elections.**

security during the elections is something that has changed Sgt. 1st Class Edith Horn, Khwost Civil Military Operations Center commander, who received a certificate of appreciation for her work with the local security forces.

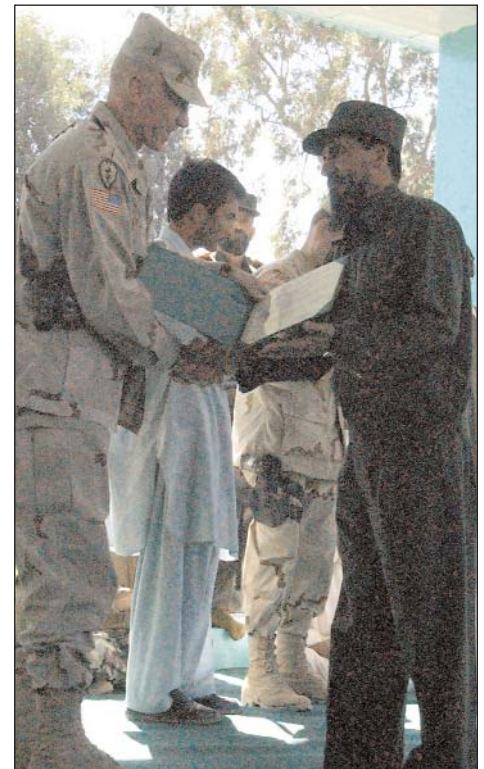
"The experience of working with the local forces and watching them evolve from a group of people to a well-oiled machine is something that I will never forget," she said. "It really makes you realize just how much we are a part of the growth of the nation."

Mera Juddin Pathan, Khwost provincial governor, said he hopes to have more successes to share with the Coalition in the future.

"Peace, stability and freedom are things that must be in existence," he said. "We have the same goals for Afghanistan, and (working) together they can be accomplished."

Olson concluded the ceremony by reassuring the Afghan people of the Coalition's continued goal of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"Today, we rightfully celebrate a great victory for Afghanistan," he said. "But, we also rededicate ourselves to this worthy cause — that a strong Afghanistan will bring prosperity to its people and never again allow terrorists to use this nation as a staging ground to attack innocent people."



**Olson (left) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Gen. Almor Guhl Mangal, border police commander, thanking the border police for providing security along the Afghan-Pakistan border during the election process.**



# ANA Recruiting Academy graduates third class

## 93 newly graduated Afghan recruiters brings total to 263

Story and photos by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson  
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — The third class of the Afghan National Army Recruiting Academy graduated last month, bringing the total number of ANA recruiters to 263.

“You are the best selected officers of the ANA and you have to recruit the best soldiers for the ANA,” said ANA Maj. Gen. Aziz Rahman, ANA Recruiting Command commander.

There are now 17,000 soldiers in the ANA, representing every ethnicity and province in Afghanistan. If they continue at the current rate, they will meet the Bonn II treaty goal of 70,000 soldiers, four years earlier than the original date of 2011. It’s up to the ANA recruiters to ensure these goals are met.

They will be assigned to the 19 existing National Army Volunteer Centers nationwide. Eventually, they will man 35 such centers, one in every province of Afghanistan, except for Kabul province, which will have two.

With the addition of about 50 civilian positions, the goal of filling the ANA Recruiting Command’s 327 slots is almost complete. The last few recruiters will be trained by the Afghan trainers on a one-on-one basis.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig P. Weston, Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan chief, challenged the new recruiters to deliver enough high-quality recruits every two weeks to start a new kandak (battalion) of 850 soldiers at the Kabul Military Training Center.

“I am confident you will be able to satisfy this need, because you attended and graduated from this course of instruction,” he said. “Only the best officers graduate from this academy.”

OMC-A is the Coalition component that has undertaken the training of the ANA. Two members of OMC-A, Master Sgt. Tracy L. Cutler and Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Kobak, both U.S. Army recruiters, had an important role in training the new ANA recruiters.

The two noncommissioned officers and their team of U.S. military personnel worked with the Afghans, and in nine months



**U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig P. Weston (left), Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan chief, awards a graduation certificate to a new recruiter during the ceremony.**

completely wrote the doctrine, strategy, policies and procedures, trained the original group of Afghan officers, and conducted three recruiting academy classes. For these accomplishments, both Cutler and Kobak received Bronze Star Medals, as well as an Afghan medal authorized by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The program put in place by the team will be able to sustain a flow of 1,200 to 2,000 new soldiers into the ANA from across Afghanistan.

“You have gone far in creating an Army that truly represents and has the face of Afghanistan, both provincially and ethnically,” said Cutler to the new recruiters.

Now, the ANA recruiters will take their knowledge into the communities of Afghanistan to continue developing a diverse army to defend their country – a challenge they embrace.

“Factions wanted to destroy our army and our country,” said ANA Col. Khalilullah, who goes by only one name, a 25-year veteran of the Afghan military and a new recruiter. “That is why I became a recruiter, to build our army.”



**Graduates of the ANA Recruiting Academy receive their graduation certificates at the ceremony in October. It is up to these newly graduated ANA recruiters to meet the recruitment goals for Afghanistan’s army.**



Story and photo by  
Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

**FIREBASE LAGMAN,** Afghanistan — The rolling terrain around the village of Qalat in Zabul province in southern Afghanistan is undergoing a transformation.

The Soldiers of Company B, 926th Engineer Battalion, and Company C, 528th Engineer Battalion, are supervising the local national workers who are moving tons of earth around Firebase Lagman.

The project is part of an expansion of the firebase, with a goal of establishing a more permanent site for units to more comfortably operate out of.

"The earthmoving is currently a civilian contract, but we have our own people who supervise the work in progress," said Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Baker, Co. B, 926th Eng. Bn., platoon sergeant. "We have a lot of earth to move out here, because this is a rolling, hilly terrain. We have to move a lot of earth to get a

fairly level surface for our troop dwellings."

Ensuring the local national workers know exactly what needs to happen is important, said Spc. Thomas Dubosc, Co. C, 528th Eng. Bn., heavy equipment operator.

"It's interesting to watch them do the job that I'm used to doing," he said. "I only have to explain things once and they understand what's going on."

The civilians use their own equipment to move the mounds of earth, said Baker.

"But our troops are the ones directing the work and seeing that it's done properly. Both the civilians and troops are essential to the mission," he said.

While leveling out the rolling terrain is necessary, it's not an easy task.

Smoothing out mounds of dirt and filling in holes to make the ground level is a tough job, said Dubosc.

"We have to move the dirt, grate it, pack it and roll it."

**See *Engineers*, Page 15**

## Enduring Voices

*What changes have you seen within your unit during your time here?*



**Marine**  
**Cpl. Josh Bertrand**  
3rd Bn., 6th Marines  
*"Maturity in the younger Marines."*



**Staff Sgt. Jorge Torres**  
3rd Bn., 116th Inf. Rgt.  
*"(Military occupational specialty) experience has increased."*



**Spc. Chad Shewry**  
TF-168  
*"The unit has gotten closer as a team."*



**Air Force Senior Airman**  
**William Harris**  
455th ESFS  
*"Better security for the camp."*



# Going long-term

## OMC-A members get progress report on efforts throughout Afghanistan

Story and photo by Col. Randy Pullen  
Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — “You keep hitting the home runs.”

When Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig P. Weston said this, he was not complimenting either team in the World Series back home.

Instead, he was speaking to the service members and civilians of the Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan, noting their achievements in the last couple of months.

Weston is the OMC-A chief, which consists of military personnel from all of the active and reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, military personnel from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Romania, and civilian contractor partners. OMC-A is charged, in concert with the government of Afghanistan and the international community, with the reconstruction of the Afghan security and defense sectors in order to deliver a stable Afghanistan that deters and defeats terrorism within its borders.

As he does regularly, Weston gathered OMC-A's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilian contractors together on Kabul Compound and gave them a progress report on what they have accomplished over the last two months and what lies ahead. Since he last spoke to them in



**Command Sgt. Maj. Fritz Bultemeyer inducts newly promoted Sgts. Jerry Hughes (left) and Jason Steele (second from left) into the Army NCO Corps at the OMC-A Commander's Call.**

August, the people of OMC-A have had a full range of issues to deal with.

One major milestone for OMC-A was the activation of the ANA's four regional commands.

Each of these commands has a permanent staff and a garrison, said Weston. Although only activated for a short time, they are already getting traction. The commanders are sitting on local security councils in their regions and played important roles in providing local election security.

The 150 men and women of OMC-A put forth a major effort in ensuring the activation ceremonies at each regional command were conducted with all the formality expected of such significant events. Each event entailed high-level participa-

tion by Afghan government officials, foreign diplomats, and senior Afghan, U.S. and NATO military officers. The activations were also items of keen international and national media interest.

As important as the regional command activations were, they were just a prelude to what Weston termed “the biggest milestone in our time and for the Afghans in 5,000 years.”

That milestone was Afghanistan's first free election, the Oct. 9 presidential election.

“You can take great pride in what you did to make this election possible,” said Weston.

“You helped build the small army that was all over this country. Their presence made a big difference. There were no huge terrorist incidents, in large part because the Afghan National Army was out there, an army that you helped build and nurture.”

The election has been a huge victory for the Afghan people, said Weston. They have elected to take the high road that leads to a bright future for their country.

“This was a victory that you helped make possible,” said the OMC-A chief. “You made a difference in building this army. You can take that with you for the rest of your life, that you were here on Afghan's Election Day and that you helped build the army that made it possible.”

## AAFES SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

### Bagram Air Base

<b>PX</b>	<b>Massage</b>
0230-1630	0400-1800
<b>Shoppette</b>	<b>Alterations</b>
0230-1630	0430-1430
<b>Burger King</b>	<b>Embroidery Shop</b>
0430-1730	0430-1430
<b>Food Court</b>	<b>Gift Shops</b>
0600-1630	0430-1430
<b>Barber Shop</b>	<b>Sports Apparel</b>
0430-1530	0430-1430
<b>Day Spa</b>	<b>Coffee Shop</b>
0400-1600	24hrs

### Kandahar Airfield

<b>PX</b>	<b>Alterations</b>
0500-1700	0500-1700
<b>Burger King</b>	<b>Embroidery Shop</b>
0430-1730	0500-1700
<b>Subway</b>	<b>Gift Shops</b>
0430-1700	0500-1700
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	<b>Sports Apparel</b>
24hrs	0500-1700
<b>Main Barber Shop</b>	<b>Black Ops Store</b>
0500-1700	0500-1700
<b>Lagoon Barber Shop</b>	<b>Leather Shop</b>
0300-1700	0500-1700
<b>Day Spa</b>	
0500-1700	

### TF Phoenix

<b>PX</b>
0430-1630
<b>Barber Shop</b>
0330-1530
<b>Alterations</b>
0330-1630
<b>Coffee Shop</b>
24 hours

### CFC-A

<b>PX</b>
0430-1630
<b>Barber Shop</b>
0330-1530

*\* All times in Zulu/GMT*

# JTACs command over Afghan sky

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORGUN-E, Afghanistan** — They are a unique breed of service members on the frontline — Air Force by service, but Army by trade.

Air Force joint tactical air controllers can be found throughout Afghanistan, planning, communicating and facilitating the execution of close-air support for ground forces.

For the “Wolfhounds” of 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, operating in Paktika province, JTAC support comes from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii. Located everywhere from tactical headquarters to operations with company-sized elements, JTAC personnel act as the liaison for all air support that comes from not only every service, but all Coalition partners.

“Because what we do can be applied to any air support element, we have no problems working with anybody,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Hiler, 25th ASOS JTAC.

From helicopters to bombers, JTAC personnel and their leaders have a variety of weapons capabilities to perform a variety of tasks.

But choosing the right weapon for the task is just one part of the job of the JTAC on the ground. In order to be successful at

calling in air support, they must master two vital skills — communication and planning, said Hiler.

In the stages leading up to operations, JTACs are very important to planning because they pay constant attention to how CAS will be used and even advise leaders on the best ways to use air assets, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Pena, 25th ASOS JTAC.

Planning is also important so that CAS can always operate safely on the battlefield with other indirect fire assets, such as artillery and mortars.

While communication goes hand-in-hand with the planning process, it is also one of the most important things the JTACs do.

“If we can’t talk, we can’t do anything,” said Hiler. “Communications is such an important aspect of our job.”

To assist in their communication needs, the JTACs employ not only a complete array of equipment, but also the knowledge to operate, maintain and fix the equipment.

“We have to know how to do everything with our (communication equipment),” said Pena.

“We are away from our support elements



**An AH-1 Cobra helicopter supports 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt., Soldiers while they convoy through Paktika province.**

so often, it is many times up to us to make sure we can continue on with the mission.”

For the JTACs, being isolated away from not only support, but also other Airmen, is something they say is just a part of the job. An aspect they not only enjoy, but one that also sets them apart from everyone else in their service.

Avoiding overuse of the word “elite” in reference to themselves, they instead use “unique,” said Pena. Because every JTAC is a volunteer, Pena said the job creates its own identity and desire for a job well done.

JTAC is one of the few jobs in the Air Force that is so far forward on the battlefield, he said.

“We like to be out on the frontline with the Army,” said Pena.

“It is something that you want to do and is very rewarding. It is almost like a brotherhood.”



## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

**Spc. Cleavon Whittington, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, guides a donkey on Forward Operating Base Orgun-E. Donkeys are often used by the “Wolfhounds” when the unit embarks on extended dismounted missions over the rugged terrain of Paktika province. One donkey can carry all of the equipment of one team of Soldiers.**

*Photo by 1st Lt. Patrick Soule  
HHC, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Rgt.*

If you have high quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [carls@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:carls@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



Open wide!

# Dental clinic keeps Soldiers in the fight

Story by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Coalition forces deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom have the best medical care available.

And dental care is no exception.

At Kandahar Airfield Combat Hospital, Coalition forces serving in the area have access to a dentist who provides emergency dental care, a vital asset to keeping Soldiers in the fight.

“We see a lot of wisdom teeth because of the age of the population,” said Capt. Brian Kim, Company C, 325th Forward Support Battalion, dentist. “There are also acute infections, abscesses, cracked teeth, broken fillings, broken restorations and gum disease.

“A toothache is very debilitating,” he said. “It’s very close to the head, and pain in the head area is different than a pain that you would get in an arm, or a finger, or a leg. It progresses to a headache.”

Many people come in to the dental clinic in incredible pain, said Sgt. Jason Lawrence, Co. C, 325th FSB, dental assistant.

“They can’t eat, can’t sleep, and those are



Video stills by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons

**Capt. Brian Kim and Sgt. Jason Lawrence work together to put a filling in 1st Lt. Javier Leija’s tooth. Having dental services in Kandahar makes it easier to provide quality dental care to Coalition forces operating in southern Afghanistan.**

two things you need to be able to do to accomplish your mission,” he said.

“Not only that, the patient is not able to eat and malnutrition can occur,” said Kim. “The combination of these things can really bring down a Soldier.”

A toothache is not something a person can just grin and bear, he said.

“A Soldier who is totally ready, totally motivated, completely well-trained — a toothache will shut them down,” said Kim.

The dental team at Kandahar works to keep the Soldiers out of pain and mission-ready.

“Generally, we get people out of pain so they can go back to work,” said Lawrence.

Having the dental services forward deployed with the Soldiers reduces the Soldiers’ time away from their unit.

Without dental assets in country, Soldiers would have to be medically evacuated out of theater for treatment — a lengthy trip for what usually amounts to just an hour or so of treatment. The travel time alone can take three to four days, said Kim.

“So that’s losing a Soldier for a good week or two for a problem that can be treated in a matter of hours,” he said.

The dental care is great, said 1st Lt.

Javier Leija, Company C, 528th Engineer Battalion, who operates out of Forward Operating Base Ripley.

“I lost a filling and needed it replaced. I could hardly chew food. It was just an uncomfortable feeling,” he said. “Now that it’s fixed, I will be able to get back to the (FOB) and be able to do my job better without having to worry about the sensitivity of my tooth every time I go to eat a meal.”

Although there is quite a bit of equipment and personnel needed to operate the dental clinic, having immediate dental care available to the Soldiers is worth it, said Kim.

“The peace of mind having the clinic brings the Soldiers is great,” he said. “It’s not necessarily a life-threatening issue, but it’s a debilitating issue. So having immediate care really pays off.”

The dental team is an important part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“We may not be out there on the front line, but we are indispensable, and we are providing an invaluable service to the Soldiers,” said Kim. “The effect of our work is immediately felt in the individual units that we help. I think we’re helping out with the overall mission in quite a direct manner.”



**Kim injects Leija’s mouth with medication to numb it before putting a filling in his tooth.**



# Working relationships develop Afghanistan

## *Hospital strengthens infrastructure through interaction, teaching*

Story by Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan — The Forward Operating Base Salerno Field Hospital provides medical services to both Coalition members and Afghans throughout Regional Command East. But by focusing on the other needs the local community has in terms of medical infrastructure, the hospital is helping in countless ways.

What began as an effort to help keep beds free in his clinic, has now evolved into re-establishing local doctors and clinics as the first tier of medical treatment in the community for Maj. Peter Ray, Salerno Field Hospital director.

“Our hospital has a very high surgical capability, but a very low ward capability,” said Ray. “My challenge is to always keep beds free in case of a (mass casualty situation).”

For about six months, Ray has been working with local doctors to establish their clinics as the first place Afghans go to receive treatment. At the clinics, the local doctors assess whether they can treat a patient on site, or if he must be evacuated to the field

hospital. In emergency situations, patients can go directly to the field hospital at Salerno.

Ray said the system being employed in Salerno is a lot like medical care in the United States.

“The (local doctors) function a lot like a family practice doctor,” said Ray. “They handle a lot of the problems like colds and rashes.”

Strengthening the local clinics will serve to set the community up for success in the future.

“The largest problem with Coalition doctors providing aid is that it doesn’t support the local medical community, pharmacies or medical supply chain,” he said. “We don’t want to create a vacuum when we leave.”

One local doctor who works with Ray at the Salerno Field Hospital is Dr. Ahmadzai Bashir. Bashir runs a clinic in the Yaqubi District, just a few kilometers from Salerno.

The Afghan doctor’s clinic has benefited greatly because of the Coalition’s presence. Not only has the Coalition assisted in better equipping and supplying his clinic, but he has also received assistance with training.

This training comes when Bashir assists the Salerno staff at the clinic they run every Monday and Tuesday. While Bashir gets to observe modern medical procedures used by the military medical staff, he is on hand to give background to the staff for the patients he referred.

“I have learned a lot from the doctors here and use a lot of my knowledge at my clinic,” said Bashir.

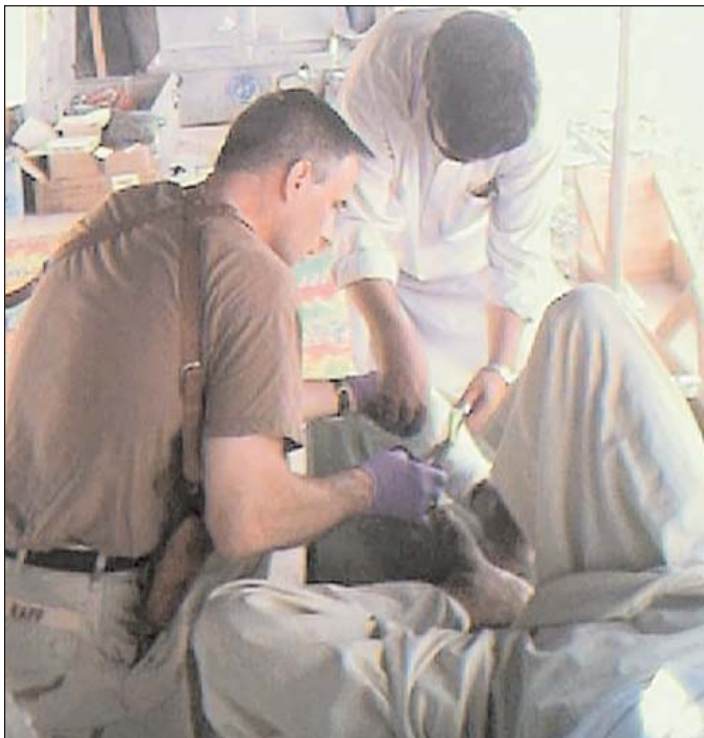
He also said there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of people he sees each day, and that is due in large part to the confidence the people have in his clinic and the support the Coalition provides.

The military staff at the clinic has also grown from the interaction with local doctors.

“We benefit greatly from working with the local doctors,” said Navy Capt. John Raff, Salerno Field Hospital surgeon. “They have taught us about local bacterial infections and rashes that the (Soldiers) are coming down with.”

With a blossoming relationship focused on developing the Afghan medical infrastructure, everybody wins, said Ray.

“We are prepared for any military medical emergencies,” he said, “and the local community is getting the best medical care we can provide.”



Courtesy photos

**Above: Dr. (Navy Capt.) John Raff examines a patient with his counterpart, Dr. Ahmadzai Bashir, at a clinic just outside Forward Operating Base Salerno.**

**Right: Bashir and Dr. (Maj.) Peter Ray cut a cast off a patient at clinic outside Forward Operating Base Salerno.**



# Ranges help Soldiers maintain readiness

Story and photo by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

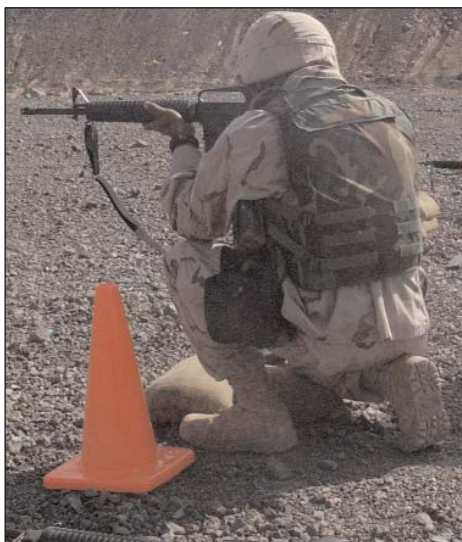
**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** — Maintaining basic combat skills is the duty of all military personnel, whether at home station or deployed.

Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan are maintaining a few of their Soldier skills by attending weapons qualification ranges such as the one set up at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

“Attending ranges is good for all Soldiers, no matter how long they have been in the military. Ranges are important for staying familiar and current with your weapon,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Edmond Murrell, Combined Task Force Thunder command sergeant major. While the training is slightly different from that at home stations, Soldiers are able to maintain their skills and confidence in firing a weapon, he said.

For most Soldiers, going to the range is a chance to refamiliarize themselves with their weapon. For others, it is a chance to get used to a weapon they haven’t used before, said Pfc. Kenneth Golston, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, CTF Thunder, medic.

“Some people who have deployed to Afghanistan were assigned a new weapon during the deployment,” he said. “By having the ranges available during the deployment,



**Pfc. Kenneth Golston, HHB, CTF Thunder, looks downrange through the sights of his M-16A2 rifle during qualification at FOB Salerno.**

they are able to receive the training they weren’t able to receive before.”

While many people conduct their daily mission without leaving the safety of the guarded base, many others perform their missions “outside the wire” where many dangers lie, said Pvt. Jonathon Carter, HHB, CTF Thunder, medic.

“You never know when something is going to happen, so you have to stay up on your skills. (This way) when something does

happen, you know you can hit the intended target,” he said.

Along with qualifying on small arms, other ranges at Salerno are designed for Soldiers to familiarize themselves with crew-served weapons, said Staff Sgt. John Wilgus, Base Operations range noncommissioned officer in charge.

“There are ranges for everyone,” said Wilgus. “Not everyone uses small arms during day-to-day missions. Some service members here are assigned weapons of a larger caliber, so some ranges are designed for them to train as well.”

Many Soldiers have a tendency to feel nervous or pressured when they attend a qualification range in a garrison environment, but the ranges in Afghanistan are less nerve-racking, said Murrell.

“In the rear, a lot of Soldiers feel pushed to qualify and don’t do as well as they could if they relaxed and took their time,” he said. “When Soldiers are relaxed and don’t feel so pressured to do well the first time, they tend to do better.”

While being trained and able to hit the intended target is the key to marksmanship, the pressure to qualify the first time is less than in the rear, said Murrell.

“Knowing how to properly fire and maintain your weapon is very important in a combat zone,” said Murrell. “Knowing how to hit the intended target can be what saves your life or the life of your buddy next to you.”

## Helping the Future...



Spc. Chris Stump

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Mary Siperek, CJTF-76 personnel, hands a toy to a young Afghan girl at the gate of the Egyptian Hospital on Bagram Air Base Oct. 31. CJTF-76 members brought numerous boxes of toys and handed them out to the children as a gesture of goodwill and friendship.**



# ENDURING IMAGES

*Combat Camera's lenses capture activities of Coalition around CJOA*



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett

(Above) Soldiers from Co. B, 214th Avn. Rgt., perform regular maintenance on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Bagram Air Base Nov. 5.

(Right) A 367th Eng. Bn. Soldier cuts a piece of sheet metal for a construction project on Bagram Air Base. Coalition engineers are completing reconstruction projects both on and off military installations across Afghanistan.



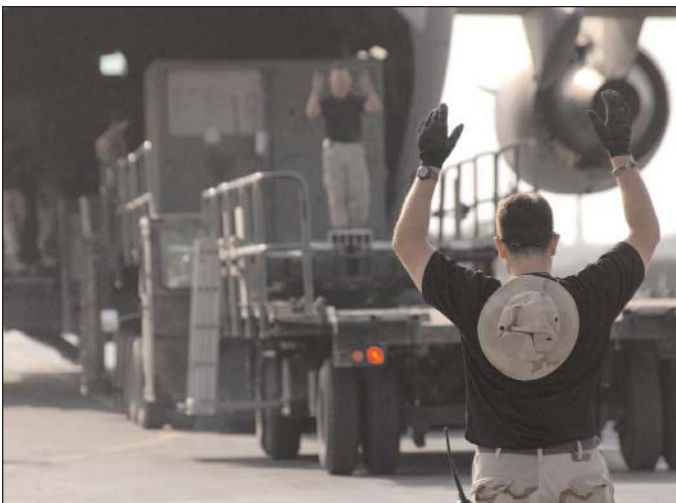
1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett



1st Lt. Patricia Sinnett



Spc. Johnny R. Aragon

(Above) Lt. Col. John Smyrski, Joint Task Force Wings flight surgeon, inspects a young boy's eyes in the village of Jildalek Nov. 1.

(Top) A young girl from Jildalek village holds on tight to a bag of soccer balls she received from U.S. Soldiers Nov. 1. Soldiers of Task Force Pirate delivered over 250 soccer balls, as well as school supplies and blankets, to the village.

(Left) Airmen from the 438th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron guide a 60,000 pound aircraft loader off a C-17 Globemaster III at Shahbaz Air Base, Pakistan, Oct. 27.

# Military brothers reunite during OEF

Story and photo by  
Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The first Afghan presidential election has united more than a country. It has also brought together two brothers who serve in the U.S. military on different continents.

Air Force 1st Lt. Matt Robins, 81st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot, deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, caught up on the family news from his brother, Capt. Steven Robins, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, supply officer, deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The brothers from Marshall, Texas, provide a show of presence — the captain from the ground and the lieutenant from the air.

"I couldn't imagine staffing patrols and leading troops like he does," said Matt, the younger of the two at age 24.

"And I think he has the coolest job, flying a jet and getting to see the country from the air," said 26-year-old Steven.

The two are the first in their family to serve in the military, but one has always

had the desire to be a Soldier and the other to fly.

"My job here is very rewarding," said Steven. "I'm always around (Soldiers), and we get to go on some interesting missions."

Recently, the infantry officer and his battalion ensured the security of polling sites in Paktika province during the first Afghan presidential election, which was held Oct. 9.

"The turnout wasn't expected to be huge, but thousands turned up," he said.

The captain's battalion also helps train and outfit Afghan police forces.

Meanwhile, Matt provides close-air support to ground troops by firing on or bombing militant forces. Though it wasn't necessarily his brother's jet, Steven has even witnessed firsthand the reactions A-10s get out of the locals. Often the roar of an A-10 coming in overhead serves as enough of a deterrent against



**Air Force 1st Lt. Matt Robins (left) meets his brother, Capt. Steven Robins, before taking off on a flight over Afghanistan. The brothers are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.**

insurgent forces, said the captain.

"For me, flying here has been great — being in a close-air support mission where I'm able to do my job and see the effects," said Matt.

While their time here together is short, Matt is expected to depart in January, both brothers said they look forward to a more peaceful Afghanistan and the end of organized terrorism.

## Religious Services Around the CJOA

### CFC-A

#### Sunday

0500 - Small Group Study  
0630 - Traditional Prot.  
1000 - Prot. Service - U.S. Emb.  
1330 - Catholic Mass - Italian Emb.  
1430 - Prot. Contemporary Praise  
1530 - Small Group Study 201  
1530 - Small Group Study 301

#### Tuesday

0930 - Chaplain's Call

#### Wednesday

1400 - Small Group Study 401

#### Friday

0830 - Latter-Day Saints  
1330 - Jewish Service  
1330 - Small Group Study 101

#### Saturday

0930 - Chaplain's Call  
1130 - Catholic Mass

### Camp Phoenix

#### Sunday

0430 - Catholic (Italian)  
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.  
1330 - Catholic (French)  
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.

#### Tuesday

1430 - Bible Study

#### Wednesday

1430 - Gospel Bible Study

#### Saturday

1430 - Gospel Worship Service

### FOB Salerno

#### Sunday

0300 - Foundations Bible Class  
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship  
0530 - Latter-Day Saints Worship  
0830 - Gospel Service  
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night

#### Saturday

1500 - Contemporary Prot.

### Bagram Air Base

#### Sunday

0400 - Liturgical Prot.  
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass  
0830 - Latter-Day Saints  
0700 - Traditional Prot.  
1115 - Korean Language Prot.  
1300 - Gospel Service

#### Monday

1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

#### Tuesday

1400 - Gospel Bible Study  
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal

#### Wednesday

1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal

#### Thursday

1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

#### Friday

1430 - Jewish Prayer  
1500 - Women's Bible Study

#### Saturday

0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist  
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal  
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass  
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal

#### Daily, Monday-Friday

0700 - Roman Catholic Mass  
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

### Kandahar Airfield

#### Sunday

0430 - Catholic Mass  
0500 - Bible Study (325th FSB)  
0630 - Prot. Worship  
1330 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1400 - Sunday School  
1530 - Gospel Service

#### Monday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice

#### Tuesday

1430 - Purpose-driven Life Study  
1300 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1530 - Bible Study

#### Wednesday

1300 - Gospel Choir Practice  
1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1530 - Prot. Worship

#### Thursday

1430 - Praise Team Practice  
1500 - Latter-Day Saints

#### Friday

0830 - Islamic Prayers  
1330 - Jewish Sabbath Prayers

#### Saturday

0400 - Men's Breakfast  
1300 - Catholic Mass  
1430 - Praise Team Practice

#### Daily, Monday-Friday

0330 - Catholic Mass

\* All times  
Zulu/GMT



# Supervision key to staying safe

## Safeguarding the Coalition

Compiled by  
Staff Sgt. Monica R. Garreau  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

AFGHANISTAN — Someone once wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it." This is especially true for service members placed in leadership positions throughout the U.S. military.

Leaders are tasked with, among many other things, ensuring the safety of those in their charge. A good leader takes from his experiences, good or bad, and shares them with his fellow servicemen.

The *Freedom Watch* staff solicited the following vignettes from noncommissioned officers operating throughout Afghanistan, asking them to share their experiences and lessons learned while serving as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This forum will be regularly featured in future issues of the *Freedom Watch*.

**Staff Sgt.  
Brian Mickles**  
Co. A, 2nd Bn.,  
27th Inf. Rgt.  
squad leader



“We perform risk assessments before we go out on any mission. We make sure we have the necessary equipment in case of any emergency.

We make sure guys are wearing the proper clothing for the weather. If it's hot and we know it's going to get cold, we bring our snivel (cold weather) gear.

We go over battle drills, what to do if we make contact.

We make sure everybody knows the safety standards from the lowest level to the highest level.

Before we go out on missions, we always do a safety brief and go over what to do if something happens, actions on contact.”

**Sgt. 1st Class  
Shafid Morgan**  
HHC, 2nd Bn.,  
5th Inf. Rgt.  
medical platoon  
sergeant



“Safety is an everyday mission. A dead Soldier is no good to anyone.

Abide by the rules and regulations, like wearing your Kevlar and using seatbelts, everyday things that keep us safe.

Make sure all the equipment works properly, preventing any injuries.

Always conduct proper preventive maintenance checks and services, which are tasks every Soldier should know and perform any way.

Stick to PMCS and basic safety procedures.”

**Sgt. T.J. Bailey**  
551st MP Company  
squad leader



“Safety has to be an all time thing for the simple fact that if not, you're going to start losing Soldiers and you won't be mission capable.

Little things like watching the roads while on convoys have to be enforced. You have to be aware at all times.

Safety, safety, safety. Be it, know it, do it.”

**Sgt. Rico Rivera**  
3rd Bn., 3rd Marines  
squad leader



“If it don't feel right, don't sound right, don't look right, you don't do it.

You always gotta think about what you're going to do before you do it.

A lot of times, young Marines and young Soldiers just want to jump right into the mission. They do what we ask them to do, but if we're not there to supervise, they're going to do things their own way, and it may not be the safest way.

We practice safety with everything we do.”

**Sgt. Jonathon Yard**  
551st MP Company  
squad leader



“You constantly have to watch your younger Soldiers to ensure that they're doing the right things at all times. From the most menial task to the most complicated ones.

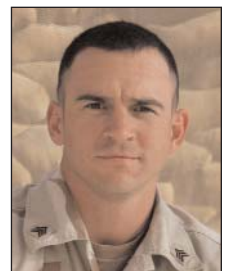
Proper supervision prevents injuries. If the supervisor doesn't know what they're doing, they can't expect the Soldiers to know what they're doing and be safe about it.

As supervisors, you have to be able to do an on-the-spot risk assessment, on all tasks, from PT to combat missions.

Once your Soldiers understand the concept of safety, you won't have to manage them as much in regards to safety.

Another reason supervision is so important in regards to safety is because young Soldiers will often choose the easy, wrong way instead of the hard, right way.”

**Sgt. Josh McDade**  
551st MP Company  
medic



“What I've noticed that's especially applicable nowadays with longer deployments, is that repetition of day-to-day duties over time causes complacency.

You can go out and preach every single day on what is safe, but if you're not out there ensuring Soldiers are doing the right thing, they tend to relax their standards.

Safety is extremely important in the medical field because, literally, it's a life or death situation every time, regardless of whether it's putting immunizations into someone's arm or applying a tourniquet to someone's leg.

Also, ensuring standards are met every single time will cause proper habits to be formed.

And that's what you want, is habit. Soldiers doing the same tasks the same way every single time, because that's how they've been taught.”

## Caution Construction Zone

### ROK engineers improve Bagram flight line, security

Story and photos by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Coalition engineers are working across the country to improve the infrastructure of Afghanistan. At Bagram Air Base, engineer soldiers of the Republic of Korea Army are making dramatic changes to the flight line and perimeter.

"The soldiers are working very hard to improve the functionality of the airfield and improve the observation points for Soldiers who have to pull security on the perimeter," said ROK Col. Park, Sangryool, Republic of Korea Engineer Group commander.

The engineers began the flight line project Sept. 16, constructing a parking lot for AC-130 gunships.

"Before construction started, this area was all dirt, making it hard for the Air Force to do repairs on the aircraft," said Park. "With the concrete in place, maintenance on the aircraft will be easier for the (Airmen)."

Even though the flight line on Bagram Air Base is quite large, there are few areas that have been improved for the purpose of repairs, said ROK Cpl. Lee, Yonghae, ROK Eng. Grp. civil engineer.

"Improvements to the airfield have been slow coming, because the U.S. engineers are still trying to clear all the mines from the area," he said.

"However, with this area clear, we can make improvements, so the aircraft have somewhere to park during repairs."

Lee said he was happy to be able to help other units with mission accomplishment.

"By being out here doing the construction work on Bagram, the U.S. engineers are able to do construction projects at other locations," he said. "Also, by putting in the parking area, we are helping the Air Force do their work better."

Besides working on the airfield, the ROK soldiers are also making improvements to the perimeter security of Bagram, said ROK Capt. Park, Byungsung, 2nd Construction Company commander, ROK Eng. Grp.

"We are building structures that will improve the watch points for the Soldiers along the perimeter," he said.



**ROK Cpl. Oh, Dooyi (left) and ROK Cpl. Choi, Soonchul, Republic of Korea Engineer Group, cut a piece of plywood to fit the top of a guard post along the perimeter of Bagram Air Base.**



**ROK Cpl. Yoo, Jaehwan, Republic of Korea Engineer Group, uses a mag float to smooth the edges of a cement slab to create a run-off point on the Bagram flight line.**

The current barriers that form the perimeter are deteriorating, which creates a distraction and a danger for the Soldiers pulling security.

"Because the HESCOs have been used for so long, they are starting to break down," said Park. "With the new

structures we are building, the Soldiers won't have to worry about the HESCOs falling, and they can place full focus on the mission."

While the projects are still ongoing, the ROK soldiers know the work they are doing will enhance mission accomplishment for the users of each project.

"Each project we do is in the best interest of the person who will be using it when we are done with construction," said the engineer group commander. "Whether it is the aircraft parking area, the security watch points, or any other project we complete, safety is always Number 1 — for both the soldiers doing the work and the soldiers who will be putting the project to use."

When it comes to any construction, whether it's on or off Bagram, the ROK soldiers have a motto they live by — "If we can help, we will."



# Soldiers enjoy comic relief in Zabul province

Story by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FIREBASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan — The Soldiers at Firebase Lagman, a remote firebase in Zabul province, gathered in the chilly evening to listen to two comedians who traveled halfway around the world to entertain them.

Scott Kennedy and Allen Havey, comedians from Los Angeles, brought much-needed entertainment from the outside world to Afghanistan last month, presenting their stand-up comedy to Coalition forces.

"They have books, movies, computers, and I'm sure they make each other laugh from time to time," said Havey. "But live entertainment is something different. Standup comedy is easy. Just get a microphone, a couple of speakers, throw down some plywood and you're good to go."

The tour took the comedians to Bagram Air Base and Kandahar Airfield. But they

also took the time to visit many outlying firebases, like Firebase Lagman, that don't normally get the entertainment the larger bases do.

"I'm doing this in places like this because they don't get entertainment on a regular basis," said Kennedy.

"When the opportunity came up to (visit) these smaller firebases, I really wanted to do

*"Just to give them an hour of laughter is very gratifying."*

it, and it's proven to be very rewarding," he said.

"Just to see the smile on (their) faces," said Havey. "We've been to several bases, and just to give them an hour of laughter is very gratifying."

It definitely boosts morale, said Sgt. Harry Vega, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 35th

Infantry Regiment.

"It's good to laugh. Laughter brings about joy and that's what we need out here," he said.

The cold weather and chilling wind didn't discourage the Soldiers from coming out and enjoying the show.

"It was cold out there," said Pfc. Demond Singleton, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt. "But when those guys got up on the stage, I forgot about the weather. I was so into the material. I'm so glad I was out there to see it."

Having the comedians come all the way to this remote part of Afghanistan meant a lot to the Soldiers.

"It shows what good people they are," said Vega. "Just them coming out here makes us feel important. We are out here and life goes on back home, and it seems like people forget about us. But these guys didn't forget and they came all the way out here."

## OEF "Values" Essay Contest

All personnel serving in Afghanistan are invited to participate in the Operation Enduring Freedom bi-monthly "Values" Essay Contest sponsored by CJTF-76. The current value is **"Commitment."**

### Rules

- ☐ Essays should include the definition of the featured value and your own experience(s) that reinforce this value
- ☐ Essays will be at least one and no more than two pages (typed/neatly printed and double-spaced)
- ☐ Please include a cover page with Title, Author's Name, Supervisor's Name, Unit/Organization, Phone Number and e-mail address if available
- ☐ Do not put name directly on essay
- ☐ Submit essays to EO Adviser nearest your location, via e-mail or hard copy by **Nov. 24**

The winning essay writer will receive a Commanding General's Certificate of Achievement and other prizes to be announced. The essay will also be published in a future issue of the *Freedom Watch*, and in the bi-monthly EO Update.

Call the Bagram EO Senior Adviser at DSN 318-231-3021 for more information.

## Engineers: Soldiers, Afghans expand Firebase Lagman

*continued from Page 5*

But the vertical engineers can't work until the earthmoving is finished, said Baker.

Moving the earth and leveling the ground are important in order for them to lay concrete and build buildings, said Staff Sgt. Toby Green, Co. C, 528th Eng. Bn., noncommissioned officer in charge.

"That has to be done before they can build," he said.

Making the firebase more livable is important for the Soldiers working in the area.

"By us doing what we do by building, we are enabling the infantry guys to go out and do what they do," said Green. "They go out, and confront and kill the enemy, and they have a nice place to come back and lay their head, a warm tent, and a nice dining facility."

Besides being the first step in the construction process, the earthmoving mission is essential for force protection of the firebase.

"In some places, the terrain is very hilly, and it obstructs the view," said Sgt. Donald Hampton, Co. C, 528th Eng. Bn. "If we can get some of these hills moved, we can have a better view of the surrounding countryside. We can see things before they get to us."

Besides leveling the ground, the Soldiers are also building HESCO walls for protection.

"The security of the base depends on the HESCO that surrounds it," said Baker. "And that's all part of the earthmoving mission — preparing the perimeter for a good defense."

Being part of the foundation of an expanding firebase is a morale booster for the Soldiers.

## Letters to the Editor

The *Freedom Watch* would like to publish your opinions on topics of importance and interest to those serving in OEF.

Please send your thoughts in letter form to the editor. All letters e-mailed must include full name, unit, address and, when possible, telephone number. We will not print anonymous letters. Please limit all letters to 200 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and decorum.

Please avoid implying criticism of U.S. or DoD policies and programs, advocating or disputing specific political, diplomatic or legislative matters, or implying criticism of host nation or host nation sensitivities.

Please send your letters to: [carls@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:carls@baf.afgn.army.mil)

We look forward to hearing from you!



# **U.S. Marines**

***Celebrating 229 years of dedicated  
service to our country***